simplest of which is to dilute the acid with liquid. This, of course, should not be encouraged, for fear of producing trouble with motility, and thereby augmenting the existing condition. Another means is to give a diet which will combine with the excess; this is the albuminous. That this is powerful in its action is shown by the fact that two or three eggs will combine with a pint of 0.2 per cent. hydrochloric acid. Further, the products of proteid digestion—that is, peptones—have the power of combining with a greater quantity of hydrochloric acid than the original proteids. This fact suggests that it would be more rational to administer peptones. The aim should be to give food in small bulk, and such preparations as malted milk tablets may be of service. If held in the mouth for some time they may be useful in increasing the alkaline saliva; thus the organism furnishes its own alkali. As for the alkalies proper, all agree that they are temporarily of great use, though in time they lose some of their power and are purely symptomatic. Combined with bismuth, their action is promoted. The special variety is not of importance, but large doses must be given. No matter what the treatment or rule of diet is in any case of stomach trouble, it should be always borne in mind that the marasmus of probably all stomach patients, excepting those with cancer, arises from the diminished amount of food eaten. Patients can get along without a stomach, but not without food.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal,* 1898, No. 17, p. 389.

The Therapeutic Value of Strophanthin.—DR. E. STAHR concludes that (1) the crystallized strophanthin from a particular maker given by the mouth is not a strong poison, in that it can be safely administered to five-eighths of a grain daily. (2) It has no cumulative action. (3) When given in quarter-grain doses it increases the flow of urine. (4) It has no untoward action. (5) The patients note that attacks of palpitation are not so frequent or severe. Whether this results from the drug or from the rest which they obtain in the hospital is not clear.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte,* 1898, Heft 5, S. 245.

[The large doses employed and the general results obtained from them are so entirely opposed to those obtained by competent observers that it is evident that the preparation employed was inert.—R. W. W.]

Fleiner's Method of Treating Hyperchlorhydria.—DR. B. OLIVETTE introduced through a stomach-tube from one hundred and fifty to three hundred grains of bismuth subnitrate suspended in water before breakfast each day for about three weeks. Four patients were under observation. From these he concludes that: (1) Large doses of bismuth are well borne by patients suffering from gastric ulcer and hyperchlorhydria, and give rise to improvement as to subjective symptoms not only during but after the treatment. (2) This improvement is not permanent, but more marked in ulcer than in true hyperchlorhydria. (3) The doses necessary for betterment vary from 150 to 230 grains for each administration. (4) The exhibition of these doses has no marked influence upon either the quantity of the gastric fluid or the motility of the stomach. (5) By this method the hydrochloric acid content in hyperchlorhydria was very slightly diminished, and this cannot explain the improvement in the subjective manifestations (gastric irritation, pain, and vomiting). The explanation appears to be that the bismuth forms a protective coating over the gastric mucous membrane which protects it from the hyperacid gastric juice.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte*, 1898, Heft 4, S. 181.

MEDICINE.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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New Bacilli Resembling those of Tuberculosis.—MOELLER, in a preliminary note (*Deutsche med. Wochenschrift*, 1898, No. 24), reports the finding of these bacilli on timothy and other grass and in the feces of cows, horses, swine, goats, and mules. (Tuberculin-tests showed the animals to be free from tuberculosis.) They resemble the bacillus of Koch in size and shape and in their resistance to acids and alcohol, but differ in rapidity of growth on various media and in various minor points described in the original. They also have certain points of difference as compared with the bacillus discovered in butter by Petri and Rabinowitsch, the bacillus of leprosy, and that of smegma. Severin and Capaldi have probably found the same bacilli in dung, but were not able to cultivate them, as Moeller was. The latter thinks there is a close relationship between the timothy bacillus and that of dung; and also, as the result of certain experiments described, that the various bacilli which resist acids may be made to assume the characteristics of others of the same kind. Inoculations with pure cultures gave interesting results. In guinea-pigs there was infiltration, with central caseation at the seat of inoculation. The lymph glands were enlarged; the pleural cavities contained an excess of fluid; the mesentery and peritoneum showed numerous small grayish-white and yellow nodules; similar nodules were in the spleen, which was much swollen, and the liver. The lungs contained nodules, and in one case cavities, one of which was three-fourths of a centimetre in diameter. The nodules and the contents of the cavity contained large numbers of the bacilli. Cats, rats, pigeons, and hens were immune. The changes, on the whole, were much like those of experimental tuberculosis, but the cavity formation was more like that in human lungs than anything usually seen in experiments. Histologically, the changes resembled those of tuberculosis to a certain extent. Giant-cells were rare, and, so far as examined, did not have peripheral nuclei. In some cases the lesions were not so much like those of tuberculosis. The further details will be awaited with interest.